

KJCK Spotlight
Thursday, April 19, 2007

Good morning, I'm Cynthia Dierks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Ranger with the Milford Lake Update.

The rain has been great! The lake is coming up a little each day! Yesterday, I even had someone tease me that "It was a real shame that we missed the big snow".....at least I hope they were teasing me. But enough is enough already....we need a break....just a week or so and a nice weekend sandwiched in-between. Is that too much to ask for? Aren't you just begging for some nice warm sunshine?

I have a very good reason for asking for some dry, warm, even windy weather. April 21st, next Saturday, is our 18th annual Milford Lake Clean Up and we will never get down some of those roads if it doesn't quit raining and dry out a little bit. If you and the family are looking for some fun this weekend, come on out to the North Overlook Park on the north end of Milford Lake dam and join us. We'll get started around 8:30 am.

Volunteers will be assigned an area to pick up, given maps and trash bags with the instructions to bring back as much of the recyclable trash as they can to the North Overlook. This would include aluminum cans, glass containers, plastic #1 and #2, tires, batteries, and other metals. Both the Fort Riley Recycling Branch and Waste Management will be assisting us this year in our recycling efforts. For the actual trash that's left behind, the Geary Co. Commissioners have given us a "free" trip to the transfer station.

At noon the Milford Lake Association and the Noon Kiwanis along with Pepsi will sponsor a free picnic for the volunteer workers. You haven't truly had a grilled hotdog until it's been cooked by the Noon Kiwanis....we're talking 5 ½ stars at least!

As always, safety is our first concern for all volunteers and we recommend that you wear sturdy shoes, long pants, long sleeved shirts or light jackets, and wear leather gloves. Broken glass, sharp metal edges, and nails in boards are always some of the hazards encountered while picking up litter. Any chemicals, hazardous wastes, or suspicious looking objects should be left alone and reported to the Corps of Engineers.

The Milford Lake Clean Up addresses non-park areas that are mainly used as lake access for fishing. Unfortunately they also attract illegal dumping of household waste, appliances, construction materials, and brush. For some folks "Spring Clean Up" has an entirely different meaning than for the rest of us.

Can you make a difference? Yes you can! I'm happy to report that the areas we have been picking up over the past 17 years have stayed cleaner for longer periods of time since we've been addressing them. This is a great activity for families and youth groups. Help all of us by teaching children how to care for our environment and be good stewards of the land. For more information about the Milford Lake Clean Up contact us at 785-238-5714.

And please remember.....your safety is our concern. That's the Milford Lake Update on "The Talk of JC", 1420 KJCK.